

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 2 and 5 and added new Claims 9 and 10 as follows.

Claim 1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) A recording method for performing recording on a recording medium using a pigment ink and a reaction liquid that has a higher surface tension than that of the pigment ink and contains a polyvalent metal salt capable of agglomerating the pigment ink, the method comprising the steps of:

applying the reaction liquid on the recording medium; and

~~applying bringing the pigment ink into contact with a surface of the~~
reaction liquid that is present on the recording medium so that ~~the pigment ink is brought into a~~
filmy agglomerate, composed of an agglomeration of pigment aggregates produced by contact
with between the reaction liquid that and the pigment ink, is present as liquid formed on the top
surface of the reaction liquid applied on the recording medium,

wherein the pigment aggregates migrate on the surface of the reaction
liquid toward a boundary between the reaction liquid and the recording medium, and by the
migration of the pigment aggregates, an agglomeration of the pigment aggregates is formed along
the surface of the reaction liquid, and thereby the filmy agglomerate is formed on the surface of
the reaction liquid.

Claims 3 and 4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A recording method according to claim 2, for forming an image on a recording medium by applying on the recording medium a reaction liquid containing a polyvalent metal salt and then applying thereon a pigment ink having a lower surface tension than that of the reaction liquid, the method comprising the steps of:

bringing the reaction liquid into contact with the pigment ink on the top surface of the recording medium; and

forming a firmly agglomerate composed of collective aggregates at the interface between the reaction liquid and the pigment ink in contact with each other;

wherein after the filmy agglomerate is formed on the surface of the reaction liquid, the solvent components of the ink and the reaction liquid ~~are allowed to~~ penetrate to ~~form the agglomerate film~~ the recording medium, and thereby the filmy agglomerate that covers concave portions between a plurality of fibers constituting the recording medium ~~in such a~~ manner as to cross over the plurality of fibers.

Claims 6-8. (Cancelled).

9. (New) The recording method according to claim 2, wherein the pigment ink contains a surfactant, and the surfactant migrates on the surface of the reaction liquid toward the boundary with the pigment aggregates.

10. (New) The recording method according to claim 2, wherein the pigment ink contains a surfactant at a content higher than that in the reaction liquid.